Bombay Gazette.

Wednesday, December 17, 1817.

(Volume 28.) (Number 1437.

Advertisement.

Sales by Auction
BY
E. Reel & Co.
On THURSDAY the 18th Instant,
At Mr. Hooks,
ON THE GIRGAUM ROAD
NEAR THE
Portuguese Chapel,
THE
Undermentioned Articles
WILL BE
EXPOSED FOR SALE,
BEING
THE PROPERTY OF
Mr. Warburton
Who has lately left this Settlement.

A VERY great assortment of valuable articles useful in Iron and Brass works, one very fine Iron Furnace with Crane & Wood work complete, one large Leath, five large Foundry Bellows, several Anvils large and small, Vices of sizes, Hammers, Dies, and many other valuable articles belonging to his business. Also a great variety of Household Furniture consisting of Tables, Chairs, Chests of Drawers and Couches, a few very fine Paintings, Table and Pillar Shades, with different articles of Queens and Glass ware.

N. B.—On Saturday at REEL and CO'S. Auction Rooms in Nesbitt's Lane will be exposed for sale a large assortment of articles of every description.

Bombay, 17th December, 1817.

THE SHIP
Lord Sidmouth

WILL sail by the end of the present month, has a small part of her accommodations unoccupied.

For particulars, enquire of Captain GUNNER on board, or at FRAMJEE COWASJEE'S Office.

Bombay, 17th December, 1817.

PER THE
ALBINIA.
Dr. Mc Cann
BEGS TO ACQUAINT THE PUBLIC,
HE HAS NOW FOR SALE
the
Undermentioned Articles.

HATS, Foraging Caps, Childrens Leather Caps, Books, an Assortment of Toys, Salmon, Herring, Stilton and Chephie's Cheese, Bottled Beer from Morton and Abbot, Hodgson's Casked Beer, and a variety of other articles; to be seen at Captain NORTON'S, Bake House Lane.

Bombay, 17th December, 1817.

Advertisement.

THIS IS TO GIVE NOTICE
THAT
SUCH ARTICLES
As at present remain
AT
Loughlin and Hunt's
Auction Rooms,
Which have not been removed
AGREEABLY TO THE EXISTING CONDITIONS,
WILL THIS DAY
Be resold without reserve
AT THE RISK OF THE FIRST
Purchasers.
Rombay, 17th December, 1817.

NAUTICAL CHRONICLE
and
NAVAL REPORT.

BOMBAY.

ARRIVED.—December 10th, Armed Pattamar Bhowaney, Syrang Shaik Dawood, from Jumboosur.—Ditto 11th, Armed Boat Vigilant, Syrang Doss Mahomed, from Severndroog.

SAILED.—December 7th, the Honourable Company's Extra Ship Carmarthen, Captain James Ross, to England.—11th, Ship Conde do Rio Pardo, Captain Henry Bevts, to the Persian Gulph.—Ditto His Majesty's Ship Towey, William Hill, Esq. Captain, to Do.—Ditto 12th, Armed Pattamar Bhowaney, Syrang Shaik Dawood, to Bancoote.—Ditto 13th, Ship Ann, Captain Robert Dickie, to Bengal.

Passengers per H. C's. Ship Carmarthen.

Major J. J. Smith,—Captain Dutton,—Captain Lamy,—Lieut. Keays,—Lieut. Daniels,—Assistant Surgeon Smith,—Lieut. S. Haggard,—Mrs. Keays,—Mrs. Smith,—Mrs. Hunt,—Children, Ann Dutton,—Wm. Dutton,—Eliza Betts,—Charles Jas. Shubrick,—Mary Keays,—Robert [illegible]worth,—John Edwin Hunt,—Maria Wolfe,—[illegible] Wolfe,—Catharine Smith,—Charles Goodfellow [illegible]—Charlotte Ann Smith,—Mary Bowles,—Eliza [illegible]—Jane Maxwell,—Charlotte Van Spall,—Captain and Mrs. Lamb and child, for the Coast.

BOMBAY

BIRTH.]—At Surat, on the 3d November, the Lady of Robert Boyd Esq. of the Civil Service on this Establishment, of a Son.

DEATHS.]—On Monday the 8th instant, the Lady of [illegible] Raymond Snow Esq. C. S.

On Thursday morning, the Lady of Capt. Strover, of the Hon'ble Company's Artillery on this Establishment.

At Surat, the Wife of Mr. Jas. Moore of the Custom department at that Station, much regretted by her friends.

The Gazette.

WEDNESDAY, 17th DECEMBER 1817.

The same dearth of European intelligence still continues, and not a single paper, either from Calcutta or Madras, has reached us during the week.

The *Jemima*, we apprehend, will sail to-morrow.

A free trader called the *Jupiter* is said to be shortly expected from Europe.

The Extra Courier of the 15th contains all the details that have yet reached Bombay, as far as our information goes, of the very gallant & complete victory obtained by 1500 Native British Troops over upwards of 20,000 of the Berar force, which constitutes another decisive illustration of the entire superiority of our power. In the attack at Nagpore, the Native Troops had only British Officers to direct and stimulate their courage, or in other words they had not European Troops to counterbalance the vast difference of numbers.

Letters from Poona of the 12th state, that the Rajah of Berar was suing for Peace, and we are gratified to learn, that tranquillity prevailed at Poona, and that by the judicious and conciliatory measures which Lieut. Robertson was pursuing, there was every prospect of the Ramoosees, who have been plundering the country, returning to their villages and peaceful occupations, and the road to Poona being again safe and secure for travellers.

The last accounts from Brigadier General Smith's force are of the 6th, Camp at Moze 18 miles west of Punderpoor, all well, and the Troops in the highest health and spirits. The Paishwa had quitted Punderpoor on the evening of the 5th for *Kurkun* and was on the 6th said to be at *Taimbonnce*. His force is greatly dispirited and the Horses falling lame, from being unshod and the length and rapidity of their movements.

The last intelligence from the force in advance under Brigadier General Sir John Malcolm is from *Hindia* dated the 29th of November, and prosecuting operations against the Pindaries. We learn that arrangements had been concluded by the Resident at Delhi with Meer Khan, which neutralizes the force under the command of that active, enterprizing and experienced soldier, and is certainly a negociation of the very first importance. A contemplation of the attitude which the British power in India has now assumed, and the extended scale of its efforts in exterminating on the one side, the scourge of every civilized state, and on the other repulsing the treacherous attacks of faithless Allies, controuling their hostile dispositions and protecting its own extended Empire, affords the amplest grounds for proud exultation in the energies of the national character.

By the last accounts from the army in the Deckan we learn that Sir Thomas Hislop, with the division under his command, was at Charwar on the 26th November. His Excellency had made a few marches to the southward with the intention of supporting General Smith in his operations against the Paishwa; but the force under that officer, in co-operation with the troops advancing from Darwar and the Madras territories, appearing sufficient for the purpose, His Exc. had retraced his steps to the northward to join in the general attack on the Pindaries.

Brigadier General Sir John Malcolm had crossed the Nurbudda at Hindia, which was garrisoned by a battalion of Native infantry and small details of European infantry and artillery. General Malcolm was to reach Ashta about the 22d November, when he would immediately advance, in co-operation with the divisions of Major General Marshall and Lieut. Col. Adams, on the position of the Pindaries, who were said to occupy a line between Shujawalpore and Bassonda.

Scindia's order for the cession of Asseerghur, an important fortress in Meywar, had been received, and in the event of any hesitation on the part of the Killedar to its surrender, the division under General Doveton was prepared to enforce a compliance with the orders. A strong detachment under the command of Lieut. Col. Deacon had been sent by Sir Thos. Hislop down the Scindwa Ghaut to occupy a position in Candeish near Amulneir, in consequence of the march of General Smith to the southward.

The Marquis of Hastings was understood to be at Terait on the 10th November.

[*The Courier.*

We hasten to lay before our readers the following particulars, which have just reached us, of the treacherous attack made by the Rajah of Berar on the British force at Nagpore, on the night of the 28th; and which terminated in the complete discomfiture of the enemy, and in covering our small but intrepid band of forces with glory. However much we may lament such base instances of treachery in any states in professed Alliance with the British authority as have been shown by the Governments of Poona and Berar, the former of whom has already experienced such manifest benefits from its connexion with us, benefits which would likewise have extended under the late Subsidiary Treaty, had it not been violated, to Berar; since that state has perhaps been more exposed than any other in India to the depredations of the Pindaries; yet as open hostility with such Governments is far preferable to deceitful friendship, we can hardly fail from congratulating our countrymen on these events, as they have not only afforded fresh examples of the great superiority of our brave troops over the armies of the natives, however numerous, but will no doubt ultimately lead to place the British authority in India on a firmer footing and Peace on a more permanent basis.

We lament, however, that our loss on the present occasion has fallen so heavy on our gallant officers.

On the 26th of November at sun-set, the Rajah opened a tremendous cannonade from several pieces of artillery (one account says 50) upon the British forces, stationed at Nagpore in their position in rear of the Residency, composed of the brigade of Madras infantry and three troops of Bengal cavalry, in all about 1500 men under the command of Colonel Hopetown Scott, which kept up a destructive fire until eleven o'clock the next day. In the course of the morning a large body of Arabs charged a small eminence in our possession and carried it, upon which the whole of the Rajah's army, consisting of twenty thousand men, advanced to the attack of our small force. The three troops of cavalry charged in the most heroic and gallant style an enormous body of the enemy's horse, drove them back and took from them their guns; in the mean time our line charged bayonets on the small eminence, which was retaken and a tremendous havock made amongst the Arab troops that defended it, as after the Arabs had been dislodged by the bayonets of the native infantry, they were taken in flank by the cavalry who destroyed great numbers of them. After an action of eighteen hours, the enemy were defeated at all points, and at eleven o'clock in the morning the Rajah drew off his troops leaving us in complete possession of the field. We understand that the Rajah's troops are completely dispirited, and his Highness has sent to the Resident, stating that the attack was made against his will, and requesting a cessation of hostilities. Another account states, he seemed disposed to submit to any terms we might offer him. Our loss is severe, 300 killed and wounded, and we regret to add, in the killed are Mr. Sotherby, the first assistant to the resident, Captain Saddler, Lieut. and Adjutant Grant of the 24th.—Lieut. Clarke and assistant Surgeon Niven of the 20th Madras Native Infantry.—The officers wounded on this occasion are Captain Charlesworth of the 24th, Captain Pew of the 20th, Captain Lloyd of the Bengal cavalry commanding the escort, Lieuts. Bayley, Thuillier, Smith and Hearsay.

Since the attack, the small heroic band has been joined by a Bengal Battalion and the remainder of the sixth Cavalry, as well as with two Battalions and fifteen hundred horse under Major Pitmar of the Nizam's service. The light division was also marching on Nagpore at the rate of 18 to 20 miles a day and expected to arrive there by the 12th December.

[*The Cour. Extra.—Dec. 15.*

English Extracts.

The following is extracted from the *Waterford Mirror* of June 14:—

"From an apprehension of scarcity, the South of Ireland has, for a week, been in a ferment. In Cork, Limerick, Kilkenny, Tralee, Dungarvon, and Waterford, the same effects have almost at the same instant produced the same causes. To Clonmel we are happy to pay the deserved compliment of superior foresight, for having prevented such scenes by a timely renewal of subscriptions; the town of Tipperary is, in a great measure, entitled to the same credit, and it may in general be said that the entire country has preserved itself from the temptation of disturbance and the contagion of example. The narrative of the week is pretty much the same for all the scenes of disturbance, riot, danger, subscription and tranquillity have every where followed in regular succession, although not every where at equal periods. The violence has been greatest at Cork, where capital informations have been sworn against twenty-three prisoners; and at Limerick where two men were wounded by the military. The object of the populace was rather to detain than to plunder provisions. It seems, however, that, though provisions may rate high, still abundance, or, at least, a full sufficiency exists, and, by the seasonable aid of subscriptions, the subsistence of the poor has been made sure. Indeed, after much consideration, we firmly believe, that, subject to the goodness of Providence, no other source of relief is available upon a large scale.—To that source we would, in the most special manner, direct the attention of the wealthy.

"Of our own city, (Waterford), beyond the mere fact of preventing the departure of oatmeal, little is to be recorded, except the readiness which was shewn by the better orders in ensuring relief, and by the poor in returning to tranquillity. Humanity and firmness on the part of the Mayor and the rest of the Magistracy; alacrity and forbearance on the part of the military, including particularly, and we are proud of the circumstance, the Waterford Staff; the habitual and honourable sympathy of the affluent; and the equally habitual and equally honourable disposition of the poor towards peacefulness; these are the characteristics that shone forth most in Waterford during the week.

"On Tuesday, indeed, a sloop was stripped of her sails, but they were soon returned without injury; another, the *Minerva*, MILLS, that on the first gathering of the populace slipped her cable and dropped down the River, was pursued by some of the mob in boats; but she was followed likewise by constables, to whom, being becalmed three miles below the city, she gave herself up, and returned under their protection. Under the same protection, she sailed on Thursday, with scarcely an inhabitant to inquire about her, so great and so confident was the tranquillity that the exertions of the Gentry had already inspired.

MR. SOANE'S LECTURE.

Mr. Soane concluded his short course of Lectures on Architecture, at the Royal Institution, on Saturday last, to a most numerous assembly of ladies and gentlemen. He described with enthusiasm the chaste and elegant beauty of the Greek monuments, and lamented the degradation of the beautiful style which took place after Constantine had, in his ill-judged spirit of bigotry, determined to efface every dome erected for the purposes of heathen worship. He acknowledged the awe inspiring influence, and holy effect of Gothic grandeur in our churches, but said that neither the Gothic, nor any of the mixed modes, of which we had so many specimens through the Norman alterations, were adapted to general purposes, or to other than to situations of romantic locality. He shewed that the Grecian was even more capable of filling the mind with the most lofty sensations, if the scale corresponded with the magnificent objects intended to be commemorated. And to shew how comparatively small all our noblest works of this kind were, contrasted with the great monuments of the art abroad, he exhibited examples in comparison of the most noted buildings in England with those of a similar kind elsewhere. He concluded with displaying a connected set of drawings on a most extensive scale, prepared as the designs for a senate-house, by order of a Committee of the House of Lords, and which, from their beauty, delighted every eye. It would redound to the honour of the age and country if this plan for a Parliament-house were carried into execution.

We cannot conclude this brief sketch without expressing our satisfaction that this eminent artist has been prevailed on to deliver this course before an assembly composed like that at the Royal Institution on this occasion, as it may be the means of inculcating a just taste for Architecture, and of rescuing it from the hands of ignorant pretenders.

General SAVARY, who was lately spoken of as having arrived at Smyrna, under a borrowed name, with the intention of proceeding overland to Persia, we have been assured (having subsequently altered his plans), landed at Trieste, where he was seized by the Austrian local authorities, and from thence sent as a state prisoner to one of the Castles in Hungary. It is also said that a number of BUONAPARTE'S officers have found their way to the Persian Court, and having entered the service of FULTZ ALLY SHAW, King of Persia Tahevan, are now employed under the orders of the Shah Zada of TEBRIS.

In an American paper a remarkable advertisement appears from the Navy Board in Washington. It is for proposals for supplying the machinery for three steam batteries, each to be equal to 120 horse power, to be completed in one month.

The Courier, July 1.

HOUSE OF COMMONS JUNE 16

TITHES.

Mr. CURWEN had a motion to make which was of the greatest consequence to the country at large It related to Tithes; and in commencement he ought to state that he did not intend by any means to infringe upon the property of the Church If some measures were not taken he could not but believe that the Church would lose that character on these subjects which it had hitherto maintained. Formerly it had been common to decide Tithe Causes in the Ecclesiastical Court; but in the time of James 1. it had become customary to have them settled by a Court of Law. The power of exemption from payment of Tithes was very insecure. The Church, indeed, would not allow a man to be exempted from Tithes even if he had been exempted for upwards of 200 years, if he could not prove his exemption by deed. This was out of all practice of general law, and very many cases might be produced to the contrary. A Learned Judge had said, God forbid that ancient rights and ancient possessions should be called in question for want of deeds to support such rights, which indeed might have been lost or destroyed through lapse of time. It was a direct and complete innovation of the Law and Constitution of this country that any question of property should be decided, though it belonged to Tithes, any where but in such places as those in which questions of general property were decided. The present Lord Chancellor had said in 1809, "I ought not now to question the law upon this subject, whether it was proper at first is not now to be considered." This he considered was an opinion which plainly shewed the alteration which the law required. The Hon. Member concluded by moving for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Laws relative to modusses, compositions, and exemptions from Tithes.

Sir W. SCOTT did not mean to resist the motion in its present stage. He would be very sorry if this Bill went out with any misrepresentation as to the opinion of the House as to the law relating to the trial of modusses; for to the sentiments of the Hon. Gentleman on this subject he could not agree.

Sir S. ROMILLY said the Bill was brought into the House at so late a period of the Session, that he feared there would be little opportunity of discussing it so fully as its importance required.—If he understood the object of the Bill, it was to enable the parties to establish a composition without producing the original deed of composition. On this subject it was to be observed, that before the restraining statute was the time to which modusses must be referred. It was perfectly monstrous to consider, that although in other kinds of property sixty years was sufficient for the establishment of a title, yet, in the case of tithes, to prove a modus as the law now existed, it was necessary to go back to the reign of Richard the First. The consequence was, that it gave occasion to the most tedious and distressing cases of litigation. He mentioned a case of a Clergyman, who had carried a suit upon this subject through all the inferior Courts, and at last it came into the House of Lords. Being employed as Counsel in the case, and understanding that this Gentleman had a family of 12 children, he took the liberty of suggesting to him, that it was hardly prudent in him to have embarked in such a suit, having so large a family; on which the Gentleman exclaimed, that if he had been a married man he never would have thought of engaging in such a suit; but that when he commenced the suit he was not married at all, although, in the progress of it he had married, and before the conclusion had twelve children. (*Hear!* and a laugh). Conceiving that the effect of this Bill would be to put an end to this kind of litigation, he hoped it would be carried through the House without opposition.

Mr. LOCKHART did not agree in all that the Honourable and Learned Gentleman who spoke last said on the subject of the limitation of time, as applied to the proof of modusses. But at the same time, he was very willing that the law on this subject should be revised.

The motion was then agreed to.

[*The Courier,—June 20.*

HOUSE OF LORDS,—JUNE 30.

ABOLITION OF SINECURES, &c.—COMPENSATION BILL.

The Earl of LIVERPOOL moved the Order of the Day.

The Marquis of LANSDOWN, before entering upon the discussion of these Bills, wished to be informed upon some points connected with the subject The Bills were founded upon the Reports of a Committee of the House of Commons; but it appeared, that the whole number of offices recommended in those Reports to be obolished, were not included in these Bills. He wished for some explanation upon this point, and also with regard to the term, existing interests, used with respect to some of the offices, he wished to know what was precisely meant by those words. He was also desirous of being informed with respect to the pension to be granted by the Crown to persons having held certain offices, whether in case any such persons already held a pension, the latter pension was to revert to the Crown, or was to be disposable by giving it to some one else.

The Earl of LIVERPOOL—with regard to the offices alluded to by the Noble Marquis, as mentioned in the Reports, but not included in the Bills—observed, that it did not follow that because they were so mentioned in the Reports, that therefore the House of Commons was to act exactly according to the suggestions of the Reports. The facts were, however, that with respect to some of the offices there were difficulties in the way which could not be arranged in time to allow of these offices being legislated upon in the present Session of Parliament. This was the case with regard to the office of Lord Justice General in Scotland; also with respect to the office of Clerk of the Parliament, regarding which, some proposition ought to originate in some way in that House; the same observation as to the impracticability of legislating, this Session, likewise applied to several offices in Ireland With regard to the term existing interests, it was applied in order to save the interests of those who were in possession of the offices. As to the pensions, if an individual previously held a pension & became entitled to one under the Compensation Bill, the former would merge in the latter.

The Marquis of LANSDOWN thought some further explanation necessary, regarding the term existing interests, as it appeared to him to be used in these Bills in a distinct sense from vested interests, and that it was the first time Parliament had been called upon to allow existing interests to stand in the way of the regulation of offices, when these interests merely arose from an appointment during pleasure

The Earl of LIVERPOOL said, there was no question as to the competence of Parliament; the case was merely this; that it had been thought fit, under special circumstances, to make an exception in favour of existing interests

The LORD CHANCELLOR said, that in some instances in these Bills, existing interests were not sufficiently guarded, at least those interests which would be existing after those immediately subsisting.

The Earl of LIVERPOOL then rose to enter upon the discussion of the bills. His Lordship observed that a bill for the abolition of several of these offices had been twice sent up from the House of Commons, but founded upon such a principle, and including in one bill offices of different descriptions, and requiring altogether different enactments, that he had felt it his duty uniformly to oppose such a measure The present bills were differently formed, with a view to the variety of offices they embraced, and also to the Compensation Bill, which formed part of the system, and upon which the whole must in a great degree depend It had been said that these measures materially affected the aristocracy of the country, and it was true that what affected one class, would more or less affect others; but if these bills were to pass without the Compensation Bill, which gave the power to the Crown of rewarding persons for civil services, the fact would be, that instead of affecting the aristocracy, they would affect the democratic branch of the Constitution For what would be the effect if the Crown had not the power of compensating civil services? The necessary consequence must be, that a few great families would monopolize all the offices of government and the state, as men of talents without property would be unable to devote their services to the State from the want of an adequate recompense. Now the fact was, that some of the greatest men this country could boast of, who had rendered to it the most eminent services, had been those who had risen by their talents with little or no aid from property. Mr Pelham (in the reign of Geo. II.), Mr. Geo. Grenville, the two Mr. Pitts, the father of a Noble Lord not then present, his Right Hon Friend, whom he succeeded, and for whom, during the whole of his life, he should ever entertain the greatest esteem, presented, with others, striking instances in illustration of this position — Unless the Crown had possessed the means of rewarding public services, these individuals could not have devoted their talents to the service of the State. Unless the Crown continued to possess the means, some way, of rewarding public services, men of talents, similarly situated, would not devote their talents to the public service, it being impossible for them to save out of the emoluments of public offices, or offices of state, any means whatever of making a provision for their families. Their Lordships all knew that the salaries of the great Officers of the State were quite inadequate to their expenditure It might be asked, "why then not increase those salaries instead of allowing the Crown the power of granting Pensions? The reason was, that by so doing, the public burdens would be considerably augmented. Many of those great officers were men of large private fortune, to whom an increase of their official salaries, or any other additional mode of pecuniary recompense, was not necessary; and it was therefore more conducive to public economy thus to leave the Crown a discretion on the subject. This was the first principle of the measure; the next was, that if it was necessary to provide the means of rewarding efficient political service, it was more desirable to leave those means in the power of the Crown, and not in that of Parliament, except in extraordinary cases. No example had, indeed, occurred for the last fifty years, in which Parliament had voted a reward for political purposes, except under very peculiar circumstances, such as those attendant on the death of Lord Chatham and Mr. Perceval. If public men were to look to Parliament for a reward for their political services, what a source of abuse would be opened! And, besides, in that case, there would be no limit to the amount of the remuneration. By the present Bill the full extent of it was ascertained. With every respect and veneration for Parliament, the political merit of individuals was the last species of consideration on which he would wish to see its discretion exercised. Much better was it to vest the power of reward in the Crown, to be exercised by the Crown on the responsibility of its Ministers. With respect to the offices connected with the Exchequer—the Auditor of the Exchequer, the Clerk of the Pells, and Tellers of the Exchequer—they were not only not sinecures, but most important parts in the administration of the Exchequer in this country, and must exist as long as the present system of the Exchequer continued They were not fit rewards for political services, and ought to be disconnected with them. The object of the Bill was to enact, that those offices should be executed by the person holding them in person, and that they should not be allowed to sit in the other House of Parliament. It was most important, when the system of rewarding public services was thus undergoing a review, that the offices which he had just described should be held by persons divested of all incidental political considerations. In most cases their amount was now regulated by law. In the only instance in which it was not so, the great and unexpected profits which had accrued were given up in the most honourable and liberal manner But the very existence of these great profits, without attaching the slightest blame to any one—had prejudiced those offices as the means of political remuneration. The more divested they were of political character, the better; and he should have no objection to any proposition in the Committee, by which that object could be more completely attained. The great principle of the measure was to give the Crown the power of doing that directly which it now did indirectly;—to reward by pensions instead of by granting offices, a large proportion of which were not applicable to the service for which the reward was given. In the case of the highest judicial authority in the country, Parliament had recognized the principle that a pension was a fit reward for public services. He came now to consider the extent of the compensation, as compared with that of the former Bill. By the former Bill the Crown was empowered to grant a pension of 3000*l.* to Chancellors of the Exchequer, First Lords of the Treasury, & Secretaries of State, who had been in office five years. But then the time which they had been in subordinate public situations was to be counted into that period. The consequence was, that that Bill would have vested in the Crown the power of granting a pension to almost every person who held one of those offices. It would also have taken away all the grace of granting the reward, or at least would have given to the individuals claiming it a kind of right, which would have rendered it very obnoxious on the part of the Crown to have refused them. The advantage of the present Bill was, that it prescribed the number of persons to whom pensions were to be granted. This number, of the first class of public servants, was limited to seven. It was at the option of the Crown, too, whether to confer the pension or not. The individual had no claim of right. The measure in its operation would have all the advantages of the existing system, without any of the objectionable parts of it. It was avowedly the result of the Report of the Committee of the other House of Parliament, appointed in consequence of the recommendation to economy contained in his Royal Highness's most gracious Speech at the opening of the Session, and he trusted their Lordships would agree with him in thinking that it removed the evils of the existing system, and provided a much better mode of rewarding [illegible] than that at present resorted to.

On the conclusion of his Lordship's speech, the LORD CHANCELLOR intimated that his Royal Highness the Prince Regent had appointed a Commission to give the Royal Assent to certain Public and Private Bills. The Commissioners accordingly having taken their seats on the Woolsack, a message was sent requiring the attendance of the House of Commons. The Speaker and a number of Members accordingly attended, when the Royal Assent was given to the Bill for continuing the Act enabling his Majesty to imprison and detain any persons suspected of conspiring against his person and Government; as well as to several other Bills, public and private.

The debate was then resumed.

The Earl of LAUDERDALE felt it truly impossible to give a silent vote on this occasion, and should therefore beg leave for a few moments to direct their Lordships' attention to this important question. He was the more induced to do so, when he recollected the turn given to the discussion in 1812 and 1813, by the previous question being moved by the Noble Earl on the opposite side, when the very same measure was before them, and even in the present Session, when a question of a similar nature was brought before their Lordships by his Noble Friend (Lord Grosvenor), and met by the same opposition. Recollecting such circumstances, it was impossible for him to doubt what the decision on the present question would be, though at the same time the Noble Earl at the head of the Treasury had laboured very hard to shew that the measure was now brought forward under very different circumstances from what it was in 1812 and 1813. At the same time if was curious to remark, that the second paragraph in the Report of the Committee was exactly the same as in the Report at the period he alluded to, and he must confess he had read the Report with the utmost care he possibly could, but in fact he could see no reason for its being adopted now, which had not with the same energy been brought forward at the former period. He was therefore rather astonished at the change of opinion which the Noble Earl had formed, when he (Lord Lauderdale) had heard no new argument in support of that change; for though that Noble Earl said it was by no means inconvenient to change the system now, yet it had neither directly nor indirectly shewn why the same might not have been done in 1812. True, the Noble Earl argued, that these offices had now become odious, but he would ask their Lordships were they not just as odious in 1812 and 1813 as they could possibly be now (Hear, hear, hear!)? Much had been said respecting a Noble Marquis (Camden) resigning the emoluments of the office he held, and much eulogium had been passed on that occasion. Now he begged leave to say, that in his opinion there was no call whatever for that Noble Lord to give up what was in truth his right, and what had been legally vested in him in consequence of the truly valuable services of his most eminent and celebrated father, than whom a greater and more deserving character never existed (Hear, hear!) Every farthing given to that illustrious individual was well-earned, and therefore no claim, no possible claim whatever could exist on its being resigned. But if the Noble Earl (Liverpool) saw cause for its being resigned now, why had he not seen the same cause in 1812, and was there any new light to induce him to see so now? He (Lord Lauderdale) was aware of none, and was persuaded there was none, except indeed the Noble Earl was influenced by the clamour of the Spa-fields Meeting, which had in other respects been so stigmatized. There indeed the holders of offices, whether these offices were efficient or not, were branded with the name of Sinecurists; and indeed this too frequently was the case, and had been the case, at meetings held for Reform. Such unfounded aspersions deserved rather contempt than any notice whatever; and he would ask the Noble Earl, whether he had in fact dispassionately formed his present opinion on such assertions at these meetings. The Noble Earl professed not to be influenced by any such opinions as those propagated at these assemblies; and it surely became him, on that account the more to shew the grounds on which such a revolution had taken place in his sentiments as a Minister since 1812—(Hear, hear.)—If Sinecures were proper to be abolished, why had they not been abolished in 1812, and even in the present Session, when his Noble Friend's motion (Lord Grosvenor) was before the House; and how could the Noble Earl, who had then met the proposal by moving the previous question, now justify himself by giving it his support? There was an inconsistency here which the Noble Earl was certainly bound to explain; and in truth their Lordships, by this measure being now brought forward, were placed in a singular dilemma, when they recollected the votes they had given on a former occasion. A more important question than the present could not possibly be brought forward, and on that account it was the more deserving of notice and consideration. The Chief Justices in Eyre, north and south of the Trent, were now to be abolished. If these offices were sinecures, why had they not been abolished in 1812? and why might the same arguments not now be advanced in their support as were at that period? If they were supported then, why reject them now? And how, with any degree of consistency, could those who then held them up as offices proper to be kept up, now declare them no longer necessary?—(Hear.)—The Noble Earl, with his usual candour (and indeed no man could be more candid than he was) had said that these Bills were to be taken as a whole, for though many in point of number they were one in principle, and it was alleged they were to diminish the influence of the Crown, and promote real economy. To this he begged leave to answer, that in the first place these Bills did indeed diminish the influence of the Crown, but it was, as he contended, the salutary influence of the Crown. The Crown never had less influence than at the present moment especially when contrasted with what was the case in 1739, when Sir R. Walpole was in office, and when there were infinitely more place men in the House of Commons than at the present era. [The noble Earl then went into a general description of the provisions of Mr Burke's Bill, and commented on the creation of Peers.] There never was a period, he contended, when the Crown had less influence in the House of Commons than the present, and the present measure, if carried, would, in truth, tend to increase the baneful influence of the Crown. He called it baneful when he considered what the proper influence of the Crown should be, and he said so because this Session he had moved for a list of the offices which were to be abolished; and also for the amount of their salaries. No person, in truth, he believed, would seriously contend that an office should be held which had no responsibility attached to it, and so

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duties which its holder was called to perform, but he contended that by this Bill offices were abolished, the abolition of which conferred greater powers on the Crown. The excellence of the constitution certainly depended on the mutual operation of each branch, King, Lords, and Commons, and on each being kept in its proper sphere. He deprecated the whole of this measure as likely to be productive of not the slightest advantage, although under the specious pretext of doing good, and thought it a severe blow on the Constitution. His view of it was that it was a measure on the part of Ministers to a certain description of men in the House of Parliament, who often slipt in between Government and what were called the Opposition, in order to obtain a share of popularity in the cause of official reform. The Noble Lord concluded a animated speech by opposing the measure.

Earl HARROWBY observed, that the Noble Earl (Lauderdale) had no right to assume that because the members of that House felt it their duty to oppose the Reversion Bills before submitted to their consideration, they would have opposed a measure of the present tendency, were it offered for discussion. The Noble Earl (Lauderdale) complained that the effect of the present measure was to divert the fair influence of the Crown from its accustomed channels. The whole policy of the last forty years in the regulation of offices was to suppress all those where the duties had altogether ceased, or to regulate those where the salaries were much overpaid. And if the influence of the Crown was by such operation diminished, that decrease was compensated by the establishment of offices rendered needful by the necessities of the country and the correspondent increase of public business. Besides, in estimating the value of such a measure as the present, the House should recollect that a great change had taken place in the opinion of the Country; and though he was the last man in that House disposed to yield to popular clamour, yet he did believe that the Bills on the table corresponded with the wishes of the sound and well-disposed part of the community respecting the remuneration of public services. He did not dissemble that there were some objections of weight to the adoption of such a system, but on the fullest reflection he felt that the advantages preponderated.

Lord REDESDALE said, he did not hear one argument during that night's discussion, that would warrant him to alter the decided opposition he felt to the principle of the measure. It was a measure which in its effect went to render the Sovereign the only person in the kingdom incapable of conferring a personal favour. When former Bills of a similar nature were submitted to that House, one of the grounds of objection was, that their Lordships were not well informed. Now he would ask what new information they were in possession of from the late Report sent up by a Committee of the other House? There was not a tittle of argument or information from which any new view of the subject could be taken. The measure was not alone objectionable in the principle, but in the details. If the thing were fitting to be done, why had not Parliament the details before it? Why was it to be imposed on the Lords of the Treasury? To many of these offices great judicial duties, though rarely called into action, were attached. It was a subject on which that House ought not to give way to popular clamour.

Earl GROSVENOR was aware, that whatever intrinsic merit lay in the measure, it did not admit of a very lively discussion. He therefore should not at that hour proceed to any argument in detail. And first he must premise, that if any credit were due from the prospect of its adoption, it was not to his Majesty's Government, nor indeed even to those who had long endeavoured to regulate the system, but to the opinion of the whole country loudly expressed at every public meeting, and stated in every petition for the redress of grievances, that had reached that side the other House of Parliament. The pensions might amount altogether perhaps, to 230,000*l*. Why not apply the odd 30,000*l* to this particular purpose, and not throw an additional burden on the country? He thought it was almost a reflection on their Lordships that there were not to be found persons willing to execute the offices of State without this compensation. He thought the Reversion Bill had gone to the family vault of all the Capulets some time ago, and it was not, therefore, without considerable surprise that he saw it rise with fifty mortal murders on its crown, in the Bill of the Noble Lord opposite.

The LORD CHANCELLOR said, that if the Noble Earl who had just taken his seat supposed that the present Bill was at all like that of 1812 and 1813, he was most egregiously mistaken—there was not the slightest similarity. He had preserved the Bill of 1812 and 1813 as one of the greatest legislative curiosities ever exposed in a House of Parliament; and he would venture to assert, that, in the course of fifty centuries, so much absolute nonsense would not be brought forward. If the Noble Earl would say that he understood it, or would produce any man in the kingdom who would say that he understood it, [illegible] Chancellor) would vote in its favour. If the Noble Lord proposed it again to-morrow, such a parade of miserable jargon never before disgraced Parliamentary parchment. Some Noble Lords had referred to the authorities of Sir M. Hale and Lord Coke; but he wished the Noble Lord who spoke last to consider what those two great men [illegible] were not in reality the greatest sinecurists in the country. (Hear, hear).

Lord ERSKINE opposed the Bill. He contended that it would have the effect of depriving the Crown of powers which necessarily belonged to it. There was no analogy between granting pensions to persons filling certain offices of State, and the power of granting pensions to persons of high rank and dignity. The Crown had a right to see and expect from the Constitution of this country, a certain interest in the high men of the realm, and the power of rewarding them with dignities and offices.

Lord ARDEN contended, that in this Bill, the interest of Ministers was opposed in a certain degree to the interest of the Crown. He considered that it would have the effect of diminishing the ancient power, authority, and influence of the Crown, and thereby produce a great change in the condition of the monarchy.

Earl BATHURST, in reply to the objection that this Bill went to take away offices out of the gift of the Crown, observed, that it was unconstitutional to suppose that the Crown would dispose of any office without an accompanying responsibility; but the offices of Auditor of the Exchequer and Clerk of the Pells, were not in the gift of the Crown, but in that of the Treasury. As to the objection that pensions, being a matter of right, would call for no gratitude from the objects of such bounty, this might have been so, under the former Bill; but at present the number of pensions being limited, the Crown would exercise a selection, & the objects of such selection must always be beholden for the preference.

Lord LAUDERDALE was proceeding to explain, when

Earl HARROWBY rose to order, as the Noble Lord was transgressing the bounds of explanation.

The House then divided on the question whether the Bill should be committed, when the numbers were—

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OFFICES ABOLITION, &c. BILLS.—COMPENSATION BILL.

The EARL of LIVERPOOL having moved the third reading of one of the Office Abolition Bills,

The Marquis of LANSDOWN was desirous of stating shortly the grounds on which he gave a qualified support to these Bills. He agreed in the propriety of abolishing these offices, which, unconnected with the actual business of the state, or the splendour of the Monarchy, had ceased to have any duties to perform, and had become useless; but these offices having become the means, in the hands of the Crown, of rewarding public services, he also agreed that some fund ought to be created in lieu of them, to enable the Crown properly to reward such services.—What he objected to was, that two words in the former Bills upon this subject were left out, which made a most material difference with regard to the interests of persons now holding offices which were to be abolished. In the former Bills, after existing interests, the words "legally vested" were inserted, which in the present Bills were left out. Thus Parliament were now, for the first time, to declare, that persons now holding offices, although they had no vested interest in them, and notwithstanding these offices were declared to be useless, should receive all the emoluments which they had hitherto derived from these useless offices. It was true, that this only applied to one or two offices; but the principle was still the same, and, in his opinion, highly objectionable. He should therefore move an Amendment, to insert, after the words existing interests, the words "legally vested."

The Earl of LIVERPOOL observed, that there was no office in England to which the objection of the Noble Marquis applied—there was only one in Scotland; but there were some in Ireland. There was no question in the case as to the competency of Parliament; but there might, in some cases, be grounds of expediency, taking offices out of a general rule, as, for instance, an office given to an individual, with the understanding, that he was to enjoy it for a certain time; and the principle set up by the Noble Marquis, that there was no precedent with regard to the consideration of the interests of persons holding offices other than what were denominated vested interests, was erroneous, as, in Mr. Burke's Bills, compensation was given to persons holding offices who had no vested interest.

The Earl of LAUDERDALE contended that the argument of the Noble Earl (Liverpool) amounted to nothing whatever against the principle set up by his Noble Friend, nor could there be any reason, except a corrupt one, that persons holding offices during pleasure should still retain offices which were declared to be useless. With regard to these measures themselves, he considered them as any thing but measures of economy. The amount of the income of the places proposed to be abolished was 57,000*l*. per annum, whilst the amount of the pensions under the Compensation Bill at the end of twelve years would be 42,000*l*. per annum. But would any one believe, that at the end of twelve years there would be only the difference of 15,000*l*. per annum remaining to be paid to the holders of those offices. On the contrary, there was every probability that twice that sum would be then remaining to be paid to the holders of such offices, in addition to the amount of pensions; and thus, instead of gain, there would be a positive loss to the public by the present measures.

The Marquis of LANSDOWN observed, that many of the Clerks in the Public Departments had been lately dismissed, very properly with a view to economy, but without any compensation, and would it be considered justice that these men, without means, should be dismissed without compensation, whilst richer men should continue to derive emoluments from offices declared to be useless.

The Earl of LIVERPOOL said, this did not at all apply, as in all cases of dismissal of the Clerks, where they were on the establishment, they had a compensation.

The Bill having been read a third time,

The LORD CHANCELLOR put the amendment, previously observing, that, if adopted, it would make no difference in the legal meaning of the Bill.

The Earl of LAUDERDALE wishing for an explanation upon this point,

The LORD CHANCELLOR observed, that offices held during pleasure were, until that pleasure was withdrawn, legally vested in the individuals holding them.

After some further conversation, the amendment moved by the Marquis of Lansdown was negatived, & the several Abolition and Regulation Bills were passed.

On the third reading of the Compensation Bill,

The Marquis of LANSDOWN wished for some further explanation as to the pensions, whether if a person entitled to a pension under this Bill, and having previously a pension, the latter would not merge in the consolidated fund, and thereby leave a power to the Crown to grant a new pension on the Pension List, and thus an additional burden be thrown upon the public?

The Earl of LIVERPOOL said, the previous pension would merge in the Consolidated Fund, but he was not entirely aware whether the words of the Bill were sufficiently explicit to prevent the granting of a new pension. If they were not he would take care that words to that effect should be inserted in the former Bill.

The Marquis of Lansdown expressed himself satisfied, and the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Courier,—July 4.

CHESTER ASSIZES.

EXTRAORDINARY CASE.--SACRILEGE.

Michael M'Donnell,* aged 27, a labourer from Glasgow, was indicted for having on the 11th of June, 1816, broken into the parish church of Church Lawton, and stolen thereout a silver flaggon, a silver cup, & a silver salver, the properly of the churchwardens of Church Lawton. On the prisoner being put to the bar, he was seized with a real or affected fit of trembling, and an apparently convulsive motion of the muscles of the face. The indictment was then read, but he appeared not to notice it in the slightest way.

The Chief Justice then addressed him to the following effect:—"Prisoner at the bar, you are charged with a capital offence, and are called upon to plead guilty or not guilty to an indictment for sacrilege. I do hope that you are aware of the situation in which you stand; for if a Jury be empannelled, and on the evidence adduced before them, they give in a verdict that you are mute through fraud and obstinacy, and not by the visitation of God, the only course which the court will have to adopt, will be immediately to pass upon you the sentence of death."—Mr. Humphryes, the prothonotary, then read the indictment, and he was called upon to plead; after some little time had elapsed, in the course of which the trepidation in his left arm had evidently ceased, he was again asked the usual question, "Guilty or Not Guilty!" when he said, with great rapidity of utterance, "Yes, yes."

The Chief Justice told him such a pleading could not be taken, as the court could not say whether he meant to acknowledge his guilt, or put himself upon his trial by his country. His lordship, for the first time, then asked him to plead.

The prisoner uttered the same words as before, when a Jury was about to be empannelled, to inquire whether he was guilty through fraud and obstinacy, or by the visitation of God. In this stage of the proceedings, Dr. Llewellyn Jones, who had seen the prisoner professionally, suggested to the bench the propriety of more strenuously urging the prisoner to plead to the indictment, expressing an opinion (formed from a close observation of his conduct) that he would eventually plead. The Chief Justice humanely declared himself ready to adopt any suggestions offered, and to wait any length of time that might be necessary to put them in practice. Being again urged to plead, and the nature of the indictment, together with the danger of his situation, being explained to him in a loud voice by Mr. Hurst, he now distinctly said, "Guilty, guilty."

The Chief Justice declared himself at a loss what course to follow, as the most satisfactory in a case so entirely new, but thought, under the circumstances, it would be better for the prisoners, that the court should proceed on the inquiry, as if no plea had been uttered. Dr. L. Jones then deposed; "I saw the prisoner a few days before the last assizes, and then declared myself unable to decide on the true nature of his case. I visited him last night, and remained with him about an hour, and formed an opinion that he is capable of understanding the situation in which he now stands, & that he is able to plead to the indictment. Finding, however, that the man's life might be affected by the opinion now given, I determined to call a consultation. I saw him again this morning, in company with three other physicians. We are unanimously of opinion that he can both hear and speak." Other evidence was produced to the same effect. Samuel Needham (a prisoner, charged with stealing silk, but not then tried): "I have known the prisoner six months, and sometimes have had a conversation with him. I think him, however, not altogether in his senses! I have helped him sometimes to dress and undress."—The evidence being closed, the learned Judge proceeded to address the Jury. He observed, a case like that of the prisoner at the bar very seldom occurred; for himself he did not recollect a single instance. The ancient law of the land in instances of this description, had its barbarous peculiarities. If a prisoner remained mute, whilst possessed of his understanding, the court would then order him back to his prison, where he must be stripped, thrown on the ground on his back, tied down, and a weight placed on his breast; for sustenance he was allowed a small portion of bread, and his drink was water, obtained from the nearest place to his cell. This inhuman mode had, however long been abolished, and a very different system had been adopted. In the course of the examination of this case, the Jury had heard the evidence of two eminent physicians; they had examined the prisoner, and upon their oaths had declared him to be in a fit state of bodily and mental health to be put on his trial. This opinion was corroborated by the testimony of Mr. Hurts, who had observed him at various periods, and remarked, that under the supposition of not being seen, he conducted himself as any other person would. The medical gentlemen had said, that in their Judgment he could plead to the indictment; and with respect to the conduct of the prisoner in confinement, he could dress and undress himself, and superintend the cooking of his own victuals. The only question for the consideration of the Jury was, whether they considered the prisoner's demeanour as mere artifice; and in favour of this were the whole of the physicians, who had sworn that it was wholly put on. Upon the whole, and he hoped the most mature consideration would be given to the evidence, if the Jury thought that the prisoner's standing mute was not by the visitation of God, they must say so; if, on the contrary, they were of opinion that he was not capable of answering, they must bring in their verdict, that he did not stand mute by fraud and obstinacy, but by the visitation of God.—After about ten minutes consideration, the Jury brought in a verdict, that the prisoner stood mute by fraud and obstinacy, and not by the visitation of God.

His Lordship immediately proceeded to pass sentence on the prisoner. "A Grand Jury of the county (said the learned Judge) has returned into this Court a true bill against you for burglary and sacrilege. To that bill of indictment you have refused to plead, and by so doing have thrown an impediment in the way of the progress of public justice. The law, notwithstanding, has a provision in this case, and the Jury have found, that it is not by the visitation of God that you have so stood mute, but by fraud, obstinacy, and contumacy. The Court, therefore, has only one course to follow, & that is to proceed against you, as though you had been tried & found guilty. The sentence which this Court awards is, that you, Michael M'Donald, be taken from hence to the place from whence you came," &c.—Judgment of Death was passed upon the prisoner in the usual form.—Before he left the bar, the movement of the hands had much abated; but the prisoner's head continued to move rapidly till he was taken below the bar.

* This is the person who, it will be recollected, at the last Assizes for that country, put on the affectation of insanity, and in consequence of which the Jury then gave a verdict—"Mute by the visitation of God.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS—SATURDAY.

FRAUDULENT BAIL.

Lock v. CRADOCKE.—Mr. Serjeant Best moved for a rule to shew cause why the justification of bail and the writ of Supersedeas in this case should not be set aside; and why the defendant should not be awarded to pay the costs of this application. The learned Serjeant made this application upon an affidavit which exhibited as gross an attempt of a fraud upon the Court as ever had come under his notice.—It appeared that judgment had been obtained against the defendant, Cradocke, for a debt of 20,000*l*; and that on the 6th instant, bail was put in for him at chambers, for 20*l*. 14s. by two persons, the one swearing himself to be William Dannelt, of Little Portland-street tailor, and the other Thomas Evans, of Church-street, Bethnal Green.—The bail piece was accompanied by an affidavit, purporting to be the affidavit of Thomas Mason, of No. 16, Aldersgatestreet, in which he swore that he had given notice of the bail about to be justified to Messrs. Tahourdin and Buchannon, the Solicitors for the plaintiff. The rule for the justification of the bail having been thus obtained, application was made for a writ of Supersedeas, directed to the Warden of the Fleet, authorizing him to discharge the defendant. This writ being obtained, and the amount of the bail, namely, 20*l*. 14s. being stated in the body, the persons, whoever they were, that were endeavouring to effect the fraud, erased the words of the small debt, and substituted the words "Twenty one thousand pounds."—With the writ thus forged, they proceeded to the Warden of the Fleet, and demanded the liberation of his prisoner. Unfortunately for their design, however, the suspicion of Mr. Nixon, the warden, was excited by his observing that bail had been put in for 21,000*l*., the debtor being charged only with a debt of 20,000*l*. He, in consequence, prudently determined to make some enquiry, and discovered that the whole was a gross fraud devised for the purpose of fixing him with the debt. Messrs. Tahourdin and Buchannon denied that they had ever received any notice of bail whatever; and on enquiry in Little Portland-street, and Church-street, Bethnal-green no such persons as the bail mentioned in the bail-piece could be found; neither could Mason be found in Aldersgate-street. The name of the attorney affixed to the notice of bail was "S. Pearson," meaning Mr. Samuel Pearson, residing in the neighbourhood of Whitechapel; but this gentleman denied any knowledge whatever of any one of the parties.—The Court granted the rule, and directed that it might be served upon the defendant himself, as it did not appear that he had any attorney, or that the other parties could be found.

To the Editor of the Monthly Magazine.

SIR,

Your valuable Magazine contains, in the recent numbers, many enquiries after cheap places of living: though I wish not to encourage emigration, yet as a statistical question, I send you an answer. In the environs of Paris, that is, from ten to twenty miles, lodgings and house-rent are very cheap. At Taverny, in the Valley of Montmorency, fifteen miles from Paris, the most picturesque and healthy spot that can be imagined, a first-floor may be had, consisting of seven rooms, furnished, four beds, large kitchen, oven, jack, fountain, &c.; two cellars, stable, wood-house, piggery, poultry-yard, and two gardens, with grape vines, bearing ordinarily 300 to 500 lbs. of choice grapes; all the walls planted with peach, apricot, greengage, nectarine, and pear-trees; of which the peaches, apricots, and nectarines alone produce upwards of 1000, and the pear-trees from about 2000 to 3000; besides abundance of vegetables of all kinds, for a family of six or eight persons. The rent is only 20*l*. per annum, and no taxes: stages pass the door, morning and evening, to and from Paris; the fare 20*d*. Butchers' meat, 5*d*. per lb. of 18 ounces; butter, 10*d*.; fresh laid eggs, 6*d*. per dozen; wine of the country, 3½*d*. per bottle; pure cyder, the juice of the fruit, only 2*d*. per beer-quart; milk, 1½*d*. per quart; green-gages, in the season, 4*d*. per hundred; Orleans plums, 2*d*. per hundred; cherries, the finest, 1½*d*. per lb.; peaches, two for a penny; and every thing in proportion. As I occupied these apartments in question last summer, I know, by experience, that a family may live well, and even elegantly, at Taverny, at 1*s*. per head, per diem. Affairs confining me to Paris, my expences are of course greatly increased; my lodgings cost me six guineas per month, but they are superb, and in the best quarter of Paris; but even here my house expences for myself and my cook, living in a very good style, drinking macon and claret at dinner, and white wines at dessert, taking my coffee and a glass of liqeurs, as *creme de rose*, *vanille curaçao*, *&c.* does not stand me in 30*s*. per week, even though friends drop in occasionally to breakfast, and are treated with coffee, wine, fruit, preserved fruits, and liqueurs.

Yesterday I had a party of six to dinner: a delicious soup; *remove*; *entrees*, boiled beef, a French tart, a stewed wild duck, salt cod

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(caper sauce), calves' brains, *hors-d'œuvres*, pickled cucumbers, nasturtium flowers (pickled), *truffy*, olives. The *roti* (roast)—a capon, a cock-pheasant; salad, green peas, spinage, *creme au chocolat*, *creme au macaroni*. The dessert—grapes, peaches, pears, biscuits, cherry jam, cheese, red-currant jelly. The wines—macon, Bordeaux, chablis sauterne, champagne, coffee (Moka). Liqueurs—Coghiac brandy (27 years old), *curaçao vanille*, *creme de rose*, *ratafia de framboise*, and *creme di café Moka*. Such was our dinner and dessert, Mr. Editor; the whole expence of which did not exceed 2½ guineas: let any of your correspondents match this luxurious economy if they can.

A FRIEND.

Paris; *Nov.* 11, 1816.

REPORT *of the* COMMISSIONERS *sent out by the* BRITISH GOVERNMENT, *to investigate the* STATE *of the* SETTLEMENTS *and* FORTS *on the* COAST *of* AFRICA.

A general view of the Slave Trade will be amply sufficient in the present state of things; until the entire and effectual abolition shall have afforded to the natives of Africa a fair opportunity of shewing whether personal security will stimulate them to any exertion for the improvement of their condition; or whether they will persist in submitting to no labour, further than to that small portion necessary for the cultivation of the lowest articles of human sustenance.

This question, we are sorry to say, is still far from being fairly at issue; notwithstanding the enactments of the British and American legislatures, and the benevolent interferences of the executive government, and of numerous individuals in the former country, the Slave Trade is at present carried on to a vast extent; and, as the continuation or suppression of this inhuman traffic appears to be the great hinge on which the future welfare of Africa turns, we shall begin with stating its present condition, and the obstacles which prevent, and probably will long prevent, its being put an end to.

This trade having been carried on principally by the English, before the abolition took place, a vast diminution of the usual number of ships thus employed immediately followed the passing of the laws for that purpose; and, as America had passed some severe laws to the same effect, it was reasonably hoped, both in England and Africa, that a mortal blow had been struck against this traffic—as the only two great maritime people who could effectually carry it on had now, according to all appearance, willingly abandoned it.

The natives themselves began to entertain the same opinion: the slaves which were brought down from the interior remained unsold, and were either sent back to the interior, or gradually dispersed as domestic slaves. As far as our inquiries have been able to discover, none of them were murdered in this part of Africa.

But the Spanish flag is generally preferred, and covers not only Americans, but (there is great reason to believe) a considerable number of vessels actually British property. The American master and crew generally continue on board after the nominal transfer; and two foreigners, under the denomination of captain and supercargo, are added to the ship. It frequently happens this nominal captain is some poor lad, who has never been at sea before, but whose services to carry the papers can be had cheap.

The object of these Spanish Americans is to fill Cuba, Florida, Louisiana, and the southern deserts of North America, with slaves—an extent of evil compared with which the former supply of our West-India settlements sinks into a traffic. A vast field is also opened to them in South America, which will not be neglected. A letter (taken in one of the vessels lately condemned at Sierra Leone), from a principal merchant at Buenos Ayres to his correspondent at Philadelphia, expresses his astonishment of the supineness of the Americans, in not carrying thither cargoes of slaves, seeing how much they are wanted. Mercantile avarice will soon supply this want, and the demand for Africans be greater than ever,—as the Spanish Creoles do not appear by any means to be blind to the advantage to be derived from the cultivation of their country, although hitherto restrained by the policy of Old Spain.

But the great scene of the Slave Trade is on the coast of Whydah, the Bight of Benin, Gaboon, and the Portuguese settlements in Congo and Angola. We have no means here of ascertaining the extent to which it is carried on; but, according to the general opinion of the best informed Spaniards and Portuguese who have been brought into this port, the annual importation was (in the beginning of 1810) considered; at a moderate computation, to be 40,000 for Brazil, 40,000 for the Havannah and Cuba. The Portuguese part of this trade is carried on almost entirely in ships and vessels actually Portuguese; some British merchants are supposed to be the real owners of a few, and the Americans of a few more. Very few real Spanish vessels are employed; the great mass of vessels under the Spanish flag on the coast of Africa are actually Americans, several are supposed to belong to British merchants.

We must, therefore, turn our views to Sierra Leone, from whence will probably emanate any degree of civilization which may be attained by the adjacent parts of Africa in the south-east quarter. But no progress worth speaking of can be made until the Slave Trade shall be so completely prevented, that the trading chiefs, and other natives, no longer entertaining hopes of its restoration, shall feel the necessity of raising produce sufficient to purchase those European commodities, which the sale of their slaves at present furnishes to them.

The chief articles which may be made the subject of future trade with Africa are—

Elephant's teeth,	Rice,
Gold dust,	Indian corn,
Cotton,	Palm oil, and
Indigo,	Timber,

on which they will respectively make some observations.

Elephant's teeth have long been an article of import from Africa, but hitherto rather as an appendage to the Slave Trade the ordinary mode of conveying them from the interior having been by means of the slaves in their way to the coast.

Gold dust has hitherto been imported into this country in very inconsiderable quantities, it being the policy of the natives to prevent the export.

Cotton, being a plant well suited to the soil and climate of Africa, the Committee conceive that the utmost exertion should be made to introduce and encourage the cultivation of it.

Indigo grows spontaneously in most parts of the Gold Coast; and, when its qualities come to be better understood, it may no doubt be cultivated with success.

Rice appears to be peculiarly adapted to Africa, and might be produced in any quantities on the extensive swamps of that country.

As also *Indian corn*, sufficient to supply the colonies in the West Indies.

Palm oil, together with wax, gum, dye-woods malageta, and pod pepper, calavances, ginger, & even coffee, might be produced in Africa.

Timber might become a considerable article of trade. Among the varieties on the coast, many descriptions of trees may, no doubt, be found valuable, as well for their bark as their timber; and, in the process of clearing the ground, potash may probably be made to advantage.

Sierra Leone.

The situation of Sierra Leone has been extremely well chosen; and although, in common with every other part of this coast, its climate is very inimical to an European constitution, yet it may be safely asserted, that it is far less so than any other place in the whole of this long range, from Senegal to Benin, with the sole exception of Goree and the vicinity of Cape Verd; but the country any where about Goree, besides other objections, placed as it is in a remote corner of the extensive regions, with which a more immediate communication was necessary, in order to effect any good, could never answer in the least the benevolent purposes for which Sierra Leone was principally founded. More fertile spots could indeed have been easily found, but so low (where otherwise eligible) that it would have been an hazardous experiment to place an European colony on any of them; Bulama may be an exception—for, as to the unhappy conclusion of that undertaking, the same sort of people, idle, unruly, and utterly unfit for such an arduous enterprise, would have perished equally at Sierra Leone, and, even under much more favourable circumstances, would have baffled all the astonishing exertions of their leader. Capt. Beaver, for their welfare and preservation.

The peculiar and very oppressive difficulties with which this colony has had to contend, combined with the nature of the soil, and the sluggishness and indolence of the population, have hitherto greatly retarded the progress of cultivation; but the late reduction of the public expenditure having convinced the inhabitants that they must depend entirely on their own exertions, much more land has been put into tillage, and with the assistance which the captured negroes afford, the country is assuming a more favourable aspect: the whole quantity of land in cultivation, or cleared, amounts now to 448 acres, of which about half have been cleared within these last thirteen months. On examination, the land about two or three miles to the westward is found to be very good, and a plantation is accordingly forming there upon a large scale, and a skilful plan, by a West-Indian planter; he has already made such progress that the most beneficial results may be expected, if his life should be spared through the rains; as such an instance of large and successful cultivation would produce much good to the colony, and might be of incalculable benefit as an example to the neighbouring natives, it is recommended that this gentleman should receive effectual assistance, either from the public or the African Institution;—the governor has already assisted him as far as he could with propriety. It is intended, without loss of time, to make a good road to this district.

The town and public buildings are assuming a more permanent form. A stone barrack is erected on a large scale; and enough of it will be finished before the rains commence, to afford dry and comfortable lodgings to the troops. In the last twelve months, the roofs of no less than twenty-six houses have been changed from thatch to shingle. It is remarkable, that, of this number, —— belong to maroons; and their superior industry & care of getting rid of their thatched roofs, as quick as their circumstances will allow, has preserved their quarter from the ravages of fire, which so frequently happen amongst the Nova Scotians. Two large streets, inhabited by this latter people, do not, to this day, contain a single house with a shingled roof; and their other allotments are built on with proportionable carelessness. The consequence is, that, out of six fires which have happened since February 12th, 1810, five have fallen upon the Nova Scotians.

Bance Island.

Bance Island lies about sixteen miles further up the river than the town of Sierra Leone; it is half a mile long, and its common width a furlong; its general elevation may be twenty yards above the sea.

The situation is extremely beautiful, in a large opening of the river, surrounded with other islands—the ill effects of whose uncleared shores do not materially affect Bance Island, the nearest part of them being a mile distant. The common sea breeze, instead of being diminished by the intervening land, is full as strong as at Sierra Leone.

At the north end of the island is a walled fort, which includes a battery of thirteen guns, very large warehouses, a noble mansion, and a neat house for the agent; the whole composing a scene of convenience and magnificence far superior to any other European settlement in western Africa.

Most of the surrounding islands belong to the proprietors of Bance Island; the quantity of land is not well known, but it must amount to many thousands of acres.

Cape Mesurado.

Cape Mesurado is formed by a hill about 400 feet high, steep on the west and north-west sides, but declining gradually in other directions. The French formerly projected a settlement here, and it is most certainly one of the strongest situations for a fort that can be found on the Windward Coast. But there is little other inducement for a settlement here than the natural strength of the position. The productions of the country round it are very trifling; the river itself is contemptible, and the bay, of which the cape forms the southern extremity, lies entirely open to the winds, which are reported to be most hazardous, viz the north-west in the tornado seasons, and the south-west in the rains.

The natural productions of the country seem to be very few; rice is raised in very small quantities; cassada, which requires far less attention and labour, forms the chief food of the inhabitants. The plantane and banana trees round the King's Town (which is at the foot of the mountain) were much fewer than those in the neighbourhood of Sierra Leone and Sherbro'. There was not a single pine-apple; one lime-tree was seen, and one tree which was supposed to be an orange-tree.

Neither vegetables nor live stock of any kind could be obtained for the ship. A little camwood, but of an inferior species, comes down the river, and some ivory is brought along the coast from places where no factories are established. Nevertheless the country does not appear less fertile than the coast in general. The soil seemed the same as that of the low lands more to the northward; and the hill, as far as could be judged, resembles the hills of Sierra Leone.

Gold Coast.

This coast has been so repeatedly and thoroughly described, as to its soil, productions, and inhabitants, that it would be a mere waste of time to enter again into a long detail on the subject. The only points of importance which remain open to discussion, are the European Forts, and the influence which they may have towards the abolition of the Slave Trade.

The number of European forts here is very considerable, compared with the extent of coast which they occupy. From Apollonia to Accra, a distance of about sixty-four leagues, they are no less than twenty-seven; five others are scattered over seventy-two leagues of coast down to Whydah; and the forts of the different nations intersect each other throughout.

None of them, except Cape Coast, Elmina, Accra, and Annamaboe, are of any strength, or are capable of defence, except against the natives, and some of them not equal even to that: nor could the strongest ones make much resistance if any enemy should land cannon, and be met with no molestation from the natives.

Most of the outforts being utterly unable to protect any merchant ships (even from a privateer) which might be chaced into their road, being so insignificant that they only exist in the country by the good-will of the natives; and having their little trade exclusively in the hands of the chief (or governor) cannot be considered in any other light than as small private factories, supported at the public expense, for the sole benefit of the individuals who happen in rotation to succeed to the charge of them.

The forts of Apollonia, Dixcove, Cape Coast, Annamaboe, and Accra, are sufficient to ensure as much influence to the British name as can be turned to any advantageous account. A part, or perhaps the whole, of the first year's saving which would accrue from the reduction above recommended, might be well applied to the effectual repair of these forts, and to the furnishing them with new ordnance and carriages, of which they are greatly in want.

Senegal.

The Island of St. Louis, a flat and low bank of sand, situated in the centre of the river, and eighteen miles from the bar, with the village of Guethendar, and the small neighbouring islands of Babague, Safal, and Isle-aux-Anglois, are the only grounds under the jurisdiction of the fortress. The Isle of St. Louis, on which the settlement is placed, is one mile and three quarters in length, and an eighth of a mile in breadth.

Gold does not form an article of export from the settlement of Senegal. The principal production, and almost sole article of its present export, is the gum known by the name of Gum Senegal, so much employed in our manufactures, and in lieu of gum Arabic (to which it is perfectly equal in quality) in our medicinal preparations; the quantity of this article annually exported may be fairly stated at a thousand tons; but, if the political state of Europe were more favourable for commerce, and the ports of the Continent were open, so as to increase the demand and the price, the quantity could be carried to a much greater extent. A small quantity of ivory is also exported, but its amount cannot be accurately ascertained.

The diseases most prevalent and fatal are, intermittent and remittent fevers and dysenteries; the latter disease is by far the most fatal, in proportion to the numbers attacked.

The people of the country in the vicinity of St. Louis, on the left bank of the river, are supported by their agricultural labour, and on the cattle which they rear.

The Moors live solely on the produce of their cattle, and by the traffic they carry on, in their butter and milk, with the settlement. Those more remote, or the principal tribes, are chiefly supported by the commerce in gum, the customs which the princes and their dependents exact from the traders, the fruits of their pillage, and the tributes they levy on the neighbouring negro villages.

The wealth of an inhabitant of Senegal consists in houses, slaves, and a quantity of country gold, generally made into clumsy ornaments for the women. The female inhabitants are by far the wealthiest, and to them the principal houses, and other property, on the Island belong.

The soil of the country in the vicinity of Senegal is in general sandy. It appears well suited for the cultivation of cotton and indigo. As we ascend the river the soil is more clayey, and in many extensive and beautiful plains is of the richest quality, being composed of a fine vegetable mould. The banks of the river as we approach Podor (where there was a French station, and still the remains of a fort which was destroyed. The timber appears not sufficient for shipbuilding, but it is well adapted for boat and house carpentry; it is procured in abundance. The country on the left bank of the river is where fertile in corn and the common esculent vegetables. They have there two harvests; the first of the smaller species of millet ends in October, the second in May.

The Jalof is the name of the language spoken in the country, extending from towards the mouth of the Gambia to Deganna, a town situated on the left bank of the Senegal, and 100 miles from its mouth, including the kingdoms of Barbessin, Salem, Damel and Walo, and the republic of Dakar. At the town of Deganna, the territories of Almami commence, and the language is the Foulah or Poule, which extends up to the source of the river.

The numerals in Jalof are,—Ben, 1; Nyar, 2; Nyett, 3; Nyennett, 4; Douroum, 5; Douroum Ben, 6; Douroum Nyar, 7; Douroum Nyett, 8; Douroum Nyennett, 9; Fouk, 10; Temer, 100; Gunne, 1,000.

The religion is Mahomedan in the neighbouring countries, with a strong mixture of superstition. The natives place every reliance on the amulets or grigris, with which they are loaded in peace and in war; and so strong is their belief in their efficacy, that they would expose themselves bare-breast of the ball the place which is covered by them, without fear or distrust.

The climate of Senegal and the countries in its vicinity, like all others in the tropical rains, is extremely unhealthy to Europeans, especially the first season after their arrival. To the natives it appears to be healthy; many individuals are seen of an extreme old age in every village, and the people are in general strong and robust. There is one dry and one rainy season annually. The rainy season commences in July and ends with October, during which period, the average height of the thermometer may be stated at 84°. During the dry months the heat is much less, on account of the prevalence of a strong northerly wind. The average height of the thermometer is 76°. During these latter months also, when the dry or harmattan winds do not prevail, the climate is pleasant, agreeable, and salubrious. Exercise in the open air may be taken with pleasure and safety at all hours, and the dress requires to be little altered from that of Europe. In this season convalescents recover rapidly, and acquire strength to resist the influence of the ensuing sickly months.

The soil is in general exceedingly fertile, and appears best adapted for raising cotton and indigo.

Of quadrupeds in a wild state, are found the lion, panther, leopard, hyæna, lynx, tiger-cat, wolf, wild boar, elephant, the leucoryx, and a numerous variety of antelopes.

In the domestic state, the buffalo, cow, sheep, goats, horses, asses, and dromedary.

The Moorish breed of horses is highly esteemed: and at the period when the Slave Trade was carried on, twenty-six slaves have been given for one by a negro prince, such was the comparative value of the two animals. The buffaloes are large, and the beef excellent. Mutton also is attained in great perfection, and for a small amount. For birds in a wild state, Senegal and its vicinity have long been celebrated; of the smaller kind, the species are very various, and for beauty of plumage are unrivalled. Ducks and poultry are numerous and cheap.

There are no mineral productions worthy of notice.

The common esculent vegetables of tropical climates—pumpkins, callibashes, sweet potatoes, and beans, are produced abundantly: but to these and the corn already mentioned, the vegetable productions are limited.

The commerce carried on by the natives is chiefly the exchange of the produce and commodities of one district, necessaries of life, for those of another. The people of Gandiol, for instance, carry their salt to Cayor, for corn and palm oil, and the inhabitants of the sea coast bring dried fish, in exchange for those articles, to the other villages situated interior.

For a series of years, the different kingdoms in the vicinity have enjoyed much tranquillity. Wars have been uncommon; and, when they did arise, were occasioned by family disputes for succession to the throne, or religious differences, and not by a desire to make slaves. Village breakings were also rare. The few slaves made in these territories were either those whose crimes or debts reduced them to that state, strangers kidnapped, or occasionally subjects who had rebelled against their sovereign. Trials for witchcraft are unknown on this part of the coast. As there still exists a considerable demand for slaves amongst the Moors, who receive them in exchange for horses, cloths and other merchandize, and convey them into the interior of the country for sale, there is no difficulty hitherto in getting rid of them, and the numbers, in all probability, are not lessened.

REMARKABLE ANECDOTE RELATING TO A YOUNG TURK.

A famous general in the Muscovite service having come to Paris for the recovery of his wounds, brought along with him a young Turk, whom he had taken prisoner. Some of the doctors of the Sorbonne (who are always together as positive as the dervises of Constantinople), thinking it a pity that the poor Turk should be damned for want of instruction, solicited Mustapha very hard to turn Christian, and promised, for his encouragement, plenty of good wine in this world, and Paradise in the next. These allurements were too powerful to be resisted; and therefore, having been well instructed and catechised, he at last agreed to receive the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's supper. The Priest, however, to make every thing sure and solid, still continued his instructions, and began his catechism next day with the usual question, "How many Gods are there?"—"None at all," replied Benedict, for that was his new name.—"How! none at all!" cried the Priest. —"To be sure," said the honest proselyte; "you have told me all along that there is but one God, and yesterday I ate him."

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